

## CHAPTER 3I

### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE USERS' SURCHARGE

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Purpose Funds local government costs for implementation and operation of the "911" emergency telephone system.
  - Tax Base All charges for telephone users on intrastate telephone communication service.
  - Tax Rate 0.50% (effective November 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009)
  - Revenue

2007-08 (Actual)	\$103.7 million
2008-09 (Estimate)	\$104.0 million
2009-10 (Estimate)	\$104.0 million
  - Administration Board of Equalization (BOE) and Department of General Services (DGS)
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#### 1. TAX OVERVIEW

In 1972, the Legislature passed a measure calling for statewide implementation of a "911" emergency telephone system. The installation and operation of the system is funded by the **emergency telephone users' surcharge** applied to intrastate (within California) telephone calls and Voiceover Internet Protocol (VIP) service that provides access to the "911" emergency system by utilizing the digits 9-1-1 by any service user in the state. The surcharge was established in 1976, and the system was completed in December 1985 for wireline-enhanced 9-1-1. Current revenues pay for system enhancements and operational costs.

#### 2. TAX RATE

The surcharge rate varies, depending on funding needs; however, it has a floor of 0.5% and a cap of 0.75%. Each year, DGS determines the rate it estimates will produce sufficient revenue to fund the current fiscal year's costs for the "911" program. If warranted, DGS proposes a change in the surcharge rate for the following period. Charges for lifeline services and for services from public coin-operated telephones are exempt from the surcharge.

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**3. REVENUE**

Surcharge revenues accrue to a special "911" fund. The surcharge raised \$13.7 million in fiscal year (FY) 2007-08 and is expected to raise \$104.0 million in FY 2008-09 at the new rate of 0.50%.

**4. ADMINISTRATION**

The "911" tax is collected from consumers by the telephone companies and is remitted to BOE.

The Telecommunications Division of DGS establishes minimum technical and operational standards for local systems and approves the funding necessary to implement and operate each system.

**5. CODE**

Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 41001-41176